

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 WELLIN 00495 250537Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /055 W

----- 030958

O 250500Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9248

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

S E C R E T WELLINGTON 0495

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR MPOL NZ SN UK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE GNZ MANAGEMENT OF SENOKO FUEL DEPOT AND STOES BASIN

REF A) STATE 039185; B) WELLINGTON 0465 (NOTAL)

C) SINGAPORE 0671

ON FEB 24 EMBASSY BROUGHT MFA (DEPUTY SECRETARY NORRISH) INTO DISCUSSION OF SINGAPORE FACILITIES QUESTION. (EMBASSY HAD FIRST DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERTSON BECAUSE KEY MFA OFFICIALS WERE NOT AVAILABLE OVER WEEKEND.) NORRISH TOOK NOTE OF THE IMMEDIACY OF OUR REQUEST THAT GNZ TAKE OVER SENOKO FUEL DEPOT AND SHIP BERTHS AND PROMISED CONSIDERED NEW ZEALAND REACTION AFTER SUBJECT HAS BEEN FULLY DISCUSSED WITH CONCERNED MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS. HE THOUGHT THAT APPROACH TO GOS SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL DEFINITIVE GNZ STAND HAS BEEN MADE. AT THAT TIME, GNZ AND USG COULD WORK OUT TOGETHER BEST MEANS OF OBTAINING GOS CONCURRENCE (PARA 2B, REFTEL A).

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2. NORRISH MENTIONED POSSIBLE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM WITH LEFT WING OF LABOUR PARTY IN GNZ TAKING OVER SINGAPORE FACILITIES. HOWEVER, HE CONCURRED WITH EMBASSY'S OBSERVATION THAT LABOUR GOVERNMENT HAD REPEATEDLY REITERATED ITS DETERMINATION TO KEEP NEW ZEALAND FORCES IN ANZUK AREA WITH NO BACKLASH FROM LABOUR PARTY. THIS BEING THE CASE, AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FROM UK TO NEW ZEALAND, WITH GOS CONCURRENCE, SHOULD NOT RAISE ANY SERIOUS PROBLEM.

3. FOR SINGAPORE: NORRISH STATED THAT HE WOULD BE ARRIVING IN SINGAPORE ON FEBRUARY 26 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ASEAN MINISTERS ON FEB 27 AND 28 AND TO ATTEND NEW ZEALAND CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE ON THE WEEKEND. IT OCCURS TO US THAT AMBASSADOR CRONK MIGHT WISH TO MEET NORRISH TO DISCUSS FACILITIES QUESTION IN DETAIL. QUESTION OF FACILITIES WILL PROBABLY BE DISCUSSED AT COM CONFERENCE AND FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION FROM THAT CONFERENCE COULD BE INFLUENTIAL IN WELLINGTON.
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY BASES, FUELING SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975WELLIN00495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750065-0854
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750213/aaaaalij.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 039185, 75 WELLINGTON 0465
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE GNZ MANAGEMENT OF SENOKO FUEL DEPOT AND STOKES BASIN
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NZ, SN, UK, US
To: STATE SINGAPORE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006